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COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

*To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.*

THE THREE BROTHERS.

SIR,  
ON reading the last number of your Magazine, I was struck with a letter, the writer of which pointed out with much force the fatal consequences of duelling. The subject immediately brought to my recollection, a circumstance of that nature which I had met with some time ago in a French book, and which at the time I read it, affected me very sensibly, and has dwelt, ever since in my memory. As example is beyond precept, I doubt not but your readers will be pleased with hearing the particulars of a transaction, so powerfully tending to illustrate the arguments adduced by your correspondent. They are extracted from the memoirs of a gentleman, who lived a long time in the family of the celebrated Cardinal Richlieu, and in some measure shared his confidence. The incidents of his life, which preceded the melancholy affair, that has induced me to lay it before you, though not closely connected with it, will, I presume, excite sufficient interest to apologize for their insertion.

Rocheport was the son of a gentleman of noble birth, but small fortune, who resided near Paris. He had the misfortune to be deprived of his mother when an infant, and his father marrying soon after, he suffered the neglect too commonly experienced by those over whom a stranger is substituted in place of the natural guardian of their helpless years. After dwelling with his nurse for the first ten years of his life, disregarded and almost totally unknown by his father, he at length through the interference of a relation was taken home. This change however profited him but little. The severity of a step-mother,

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rendered him not only a stranger but almost a servant in his father's house, and he at length formed the desperate resolution of flying from it for ever.

The arrival of a band of strolling beggars, resembling the Gypsies in England, confirmed him in his intention. Their life of thoughtless idleness pleased him; he joined their company, and was soon initiated in all the petty knaveries by which they procured subsistence. Indeed, so apt a scholar was he, that, as we are informed by himself, he had not quitted his father's lands, when he brought into the common stock, six pullets, which he had purloined. He was rewarded for this early promise of talent, with a glass of brandy, by the chief of the gang, who at the same time expressed his confidence, that he would one day be an honour to his profession. In this company he continued five years, but at length as his understanding began to ripen, the reflection of what he had been, and of the degraded line of life in which he was at present, began to make an impression on his mind, and he determined to quit it for some more suitable to his birth and family. This resolution was confirmed by the breaking up of the gang, when in the south of France, among the Pyrenees. He took the road to Roussillon, and having arrived at the town of Locates, offered his services to the Governor as a soldier, and was accepted.

He had no sooner engaged in the military life, than he sighed for an opportunity of signalizing himself. For this purpose he applied for leave to make a sally to the environs of the neighbouring town of Salses, then occupied by a garrison of Spaniards. Having with some difficulty succeeded in his application, he sallied forth, attended by a single comrade. In this Quixotic expedition, he showed

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some sagacity and foresight. In some of his former reconnoitring parties, he had discovered that a Spanish officer carried on an intrigue with a young woman in the neighbourhood, and that they met at a waste house, near the walls. Thither he repaired; concealed his comrade in a well, and pretended to be busily employed in washing some linen. Soon after a soldier came from the town, and on seeing nothing near but a boy so employed, retired and gave the signal to his master, who was soon perceived directing his steps to the place of assignation, where the lady came at the same time. But scarce had they time to give vent to the first expressions of affection, when Rochefort rushed in with a pistol in each hand, calling on him to surrender. His summons was obeyed. He led off his two astonished prisoners to the place where his comrade was concealed; and the officer seeing him so well seconded gave up all thoughts of resistance or escape. They proceeded till they had got to some distance from the enemy's town, when his companion showing an inclination to take improper liberties with their female prisoner, a quarrel ensued, in which Rochefort defended his prize so gallantly, that the other made his escape. He was now exposed to a new danger; the soldier fearful of punishment on his return, deserted and gave information of what just occurred; a party was sent out, and he had just arrived at the gate of Locates when he saw three horsemen galloping up to overtake him.

This action gained so much on the Governor, that he wrote an account of it to court; and Cardinal Richlieu, who then held the reins of government, was so much pleased with the relation, that he ordered the young soldier to be sent to Paris, at the same time remitting a sum sufficient to equip him, and to defray the expenses of the journey. The young adventurer made no delay in availing himself of this dawn of good fortune; he instantly set out for Paris. On approaching that city, he turned aside to pay a debt of duty and gratitude, by waiting on his father, and remunerating poor Clergyman in the

neighbourhood, who had given him a small sum, when he quitted his father's house. His reception in these places was very different. In the latter he received a hearty welcome, but with the former his reception was such as might be expected by a runaway son, from a harsh step-mother. His horse was left without hay and oats, and himself scarcely asked to his father's table; chagrined to the highest degree, he smothered his resentment through respect, determining however to quit the inhospitable mansion, as early as possible, at day break. While he was ruminating on this disagreeable subject in his chamber, he was astonished at the unexpected appearance of his father and step-mother, who addressed him with every mark of affection, and made innumerable apologies for their coolness, which they attributed to every cause but the right one. The reason of the change may be easily divined. His servant had mentioned the circumstances of his journey; and he was now no longer the fugitive step-son, but the protégé of the all-powerful minister of France. The house and all that it contained was now at his service; not without a hint that it might be soon in his power to repay, by future favours, this unexpected display of parental affection. The next morning, as he was preparing to set out, he found a breakfast prepared, as if for the entertainment of a personage of the first consequence. The servants had been summoned two hours before day; and every branch of the family within reach collected; the yard was crowded with horses, and the house with friends and relations all eager to pour out a profusion of compliments and services to the young courtier. He never before knew all his relatives; with difficulty he got out of their hands, and proceeded on his journey; having now for the first time experienced a sample of that flattery, which he was to receive in a more refined form when ushered in at court, under the same character that had caused such a change in the conduct of his father's family.

On his introduction, the Cardinal was at first disappointed, but from

his conversation finding that he had a spirit beyond his years, he soon changed his opinion, and retained him in his family in the quality of a page. In this employment he quickly ingratiated himself into his master's good graces, and showed such proofs of intelligence and fidelity that he was intrusted in the management of several of his court intrigues. Some of these are worthy of mention from their singularity. At one time he was sent to the road to St. Denis with a bag of gold, which he was directed to place under a particular stone, and to return immediately without ever looking behind him. At another time he was sent to a particular place, where he found a man in an attitude which had been previously described to him, leaning with his face on one hand against a tree, holding the other hand behind his back, as a physician is sometimes exhibited on the stage, angling, if I may so call it, for his fee. Into this hand a sum of money was to be deposited, which was done without ever seeing the face of the person who received it. In these kind of secret services he past two years, much against his inclinations, for his mind still retained a strong bent towards the military profession, in which he had made such an honourable commencement.

During his good fortune he was not forgetful of his former friends. The first favour he obtained from the Cardinal was a small church preferment, for his old patron, the curate. This unexpected present was attended with consequences he did not at first foresee. If it excited the gratitude of the person on whom it was bestowed, it brought on him a torrent of abuse from his step-mother, who did not fail to vent her reproaches on him for overlooking his own family. She was at length pacified by fair promises. But he had scarcely rid himself of her anger, when he was overwhelmed with the importunities of his relations. On hearing of his successful interference in behalf of the curate, they poured in upon him in multitudes, from every quarter. The extent and number of his connections was incredible. From Picardy to Bearn, not a province but could

produce some of his family, all prepared with genealogies and pedigrees to prove the kindred. Their reception was not such as they might think themselves entitled to, and they all returned fully convinced that their favoured relation had not been so long at court, without learning at least one part of his trade, the art of denying with a good grace.

In the mean time the Cardinal who became every day more attached to him, continued to employ him in his secret intrigues. Of these we shall pass over the most, as differing little from what may be met with in the calendar of every corrupt and intriguing court; one however is worth notice from the danger to which he was exposed, and the ingenuity with which he extricated himself. He was dispatched to Brussels, in the disguise of a Capuchin, to unravel some designs supposed to be carried on against the Cardinal. This was a service of a new and very disagreeable nature. To prevent suspicion he was obliged to submit to all the rigid discipline of that order; to travel on foot, to sleep hard, and rise several times during the night to attend the religious offices of the convent. In short, his manner of life was the very reverse of what he had been hitherto accustomed to, and therefore agreed very ill with him. But such sacrifices were necessary to retain his master's good graces. He therefore submitted in silence, but not without repining. One day as he was quitting the house of a nobieman into whose good graces he had insinuated himself for the purpose of gaining information, he was met by three gentlemen, one of whom after looking at him very steadily, cried out, "That must be Rochefort if he is alive." Rochefort scarce heard the words, when without giving himself time to look back, he quickened his pace, and turning down the first street he met, escaped any further investigation. He immediately went to a taylor's shop, and told the master of it, that if he immediately furnished him with a suit of clothes, he should be well paid, adding that, though a Capuchin, he always kept a small purse in private, to provide against emergencies. The

taylor, glad of bringing his wares to a good market, supplied him with what he wanted, for which he did not charge much more than double price. Rochefort did not delay a moment to change his clothes, and having hired horses, rode out of the town, disguised as a Spaniard. He had need of all his haste, for the whole town was soon in an uproar, guards were placed on the convent, and every measure taken to prevent his escape. His enemies were doubly anxious to seize and punish him not only as a spy, but to retaliate on the Cardinal, for the death of a nobleman of the Spanish party, whom he had caused to be beheaded shortly before, for engaging in a conspiracy against his own life.

His first step on his arrival at Paris was to present himself to the Cardinal, who was very much surprised and enraged, at finding that he had returned without leave. On hearing the whole story, however, he was conscious of the necessity of the step he had taken, and Rochefort was again admitted to his former intimacy. He had now arrived at the meridian of prosperity; his expenses, which were very great, for his good fortune had not made him an economist, were defrayed by his patron, and new favours were daily bestowed upon him by his indulgent master. Nor while he himself was basking in the sun, was he forgetful of his friends, who were still in the shade. He had already procured a pair of colours for his eldest brother, who, after having served two or three campaigns with some credit, lost his life in Flanders. On his death he procured the appointment for another of his brothers, and shortly after introduced his youngest brother to the Cardinal, and prevailed upon him to promote the former to a lieutenancy, and bestow the vacant ensigncy on the latter.

All these favours were granted with so much willingness that Rochefort thought he could not do too much for such a patron, and sighed for an opportunity of giving a proof of his zeal and gratitude. Such an opportunity soon presented itself. As he was one evening dining in a mixed company, an Englishman who was present, either instigated by wine, or from

some private pique, broke out into the bitterest invectives against the Cardinal, whom he spoke of as a minister defiled with the most enormous crimes. At first Rochefort checked himself and calmly remonstrated with him on the impropriety of such language towards his friend. But as this had no effect, and the stranger proceeded still farther in his abusive language, his passion got the better of his prudence, and he threw a plate at the other's head. They immediately had recourse to their swords, and the dispute would have been decided on the spot, had it not been for the interference of their friends, by whose means they were separated for the time.

The next morning while he was yet in bed, he was informed that a gentleman wished to speak with him, and on his being introduced, he immediately recognized the features of one of the company of the former evening. The intention of his visit may be easily guessed. He told him that his friend the Englishman wished to wipe off an affront which could only be expiated by the blood of one of the parties, requested that he would come at a time and place appointed, with two of his friends, there to decide the dispute without interruption.

The request was instantly complied with; and nothing now remained for Rochefort but the choice of the two friends who were to accompany him. Duelling was in these days still more bloody and fatal than it is at present. The sword, a weapon much more deadly than the pistol, was always used on such occasions, and it was the custom to go to the ground, attended with two or three friends, who were not content to be calm spectators of the contest, but thought themselves bound in honour to act as principals, and thus the decision of a trivial point of honour was not seldom attended with the loss of several lives. Rochefort was long deliberating on whom he should turn his thoughts, but at length reflecting that he was about to engage in the Cardinal's cause, and that he had two brothers at present in Paris, of an age to carry arms, and who had been indebted to his friendship for the promotion they already enjoyed, he thought

that they were the fittest persons to avenge his quarrel. To them, therefore, he imparted his proposal, which was accepted on their part, with the greatest avidity.

With them, therefore, he set out to the wood of Boulogne, the place of rendezvous, where he found his adversaries prepared for the encounter. Their swords were immediately drawn, each singled out his opponent, and commenced the attack with all the vigour and address of which they were masters. Rochefort's eldest brother was first wounded, but was able to wound his antagonist in turn, and disarm him. Rochefort himself had equal success, having forced his sword from the person with whom he fought, and both now hastened to the relief of their youngest brother, who was still engaged and closely pressed. They had just come up to his relief when he received a thrust through the body and dropped dead at their feet. Such a sight was sufficient to rouse their utmost fury; they fell with united rage on his murderer, who soon found himself overpowered by a contest so unequal: he called out for quarter; generosity to the vanquished prevailed over the desire of revenge, and he was permitted to retire with his companions, unhurt.

They had thus gained three swords, a small compensation for the loss of a brother, whom they left breathless on the field of battle. But this was not all: his elder brother, who had been wounded through the body, as they were preparing to retire, suddenly expired in his arms. Thus was he the cause of the death of two brothers whom he tenderly loved, and whom he had led out to be innocently slaughtered. His step-mother, who had before charged him with the death of her eldest son, that had been killed in Flanders, now renewed her accusation with greater justice, and loudly upbraided him with being the premeditated murderer of all his nearest relations. The Cardinal also, though it was in his cause that the quarrel had commenced, refused to countenance him. Duelling had been strictly prohibited: two noblemen had lately expired on the scaffold, for their breach of this salutary edict. For four months

he spent a miserable wandering life, obliged to keep himself strictly concealed from every eye; and known only to one or two confidential friends, who were on the watch to seize on and report to him any favourable circumstance that might occur. At length it was intimated to him, through this channel, that the Cardinal wished him to deliver himself into the hands of justice. Though he could not divine the motives of such an order, he did not hesitate to obey; the life he now led became more intolerable than death itself. He surrendered himself, but upon being brought to trial he was surprised to find the accusation drawn up in such favourable terms, that it could not have been more so, if prepared by himself. It stated that his antagonist not content with insulting him in a private company, had waylaid him in the wood of Boulogne, on his return from Versailles, with his three brothers, that they felt themselves constrained to use their swords in their own defence; not without having made the strongest remonstrances against such an infringement of the orders of the king. Defence against such an accusation was neither tedious nor difficult; he was of course acquitted. On being introduced to the Cardinal, he was informed to whom he owed the obligation of being so honourably extricated from his dangerous situation. Unwilling openly to take the part of one who had committed so flagrant a trespass against the laws, he concealed his real intention under the disguise of affected anger, and thus permitting the first ebullition of the royal anger to subside, had the informations drawn up in the favourable form already stated.

Such was one among innumerable other examples of the fatal consequences of this inhuman practice. The above narrative may also serve to show in a slight degree, the manners of the French court at that day. If such were its practices when it was directed by the abilities of the greatest statesman of his time, what must they have been when the ruling minister endeavoured to supply deficiency of talent, by superior skill in the arts of intrigue. Each exulted in turn in the short lived success of his pet-

ty artifices, while the state sunk gradually through their machinations into a state of corruption and debility, under which it could no longer exist, and from which it had not strength to extricate itself. Of the dreadful consequences of such a train of perverted policy, successively conducting it through the extremes of vice and anarchy and slavery in every shape, we of the present day are destined to be the spectators.

For the *Belfast Monthly Magazine*.

#### ANECDOTES OF INDIAN MUSICK.

BY W. OUSELEY, ESQUIRE.

WHEN I first resolved to apply myself to the study of the fine arts, as cultivated among the Persians, I solicited from various correspondents, settled in the East, the communication of such books and original information on those subjects as their situation might enable them to procure, whilst I availed myself of every opportunity that offered in this country to increase my collection of Oriental manuscripts.

With two fine copies of Sadi's *Gulistān* and *Bostān*, which once belonged to the celebrated *Chardin*, I have lately been so fortunate as to purchase a short, but very curious essay on *Persian Musick*, which from many circumstances I am willing to persuade myself was brought to Europe by that ingenious Orientalist, and is the same manuscript of which he laments that he had not procured the explanation while at *Isfahan*. But as my design in the present essay relates only to the musick of *Hindoostan*, I shall proceed to mention, that among several books sent to me from that country, some, though written in the Persian language, profess to be translated from the Sanscrit, and treat of the musical modes, the *Raug*s and *Raugnees* of the *Hindus*. From these, however, so little has been borrowed in the course of the following remarks, that if any thing curious or entertaining should be found in them, the thanks of the reader will be principally due to my brother Mr. Gore Ouseley, whom a residence of several years in India has rendered perfectly acquainted with the theory and practice of *Hindu Musick*.

By him were communicated the Indian airs, and drawings of musical instruments: I can only boast of having compiled from his letters: of having deciphered (not without difficulty) the notation of the *Ramgully*, and translated a few passages from a Persian manuscript treatise on musick, which I shall mention hereafter, and for the perusal of which I am indebted to the politeness of Sir George Staunton.

On the subject of those ancient and extraordinary melodies, which the *Hindus* call *Raug*s and *Raugnees*, the popular traditions are as numerous and romantic, as the powers ascribed to them are miraculous. Of the six *Raug*s, the five first owe their origin to the God *Mahadeo*, who produced them from his five heads. *Parbuttee* his wife constructed the sixth; and the thirty *Raugnees* were composed by *Brimhu*. Thus, of celestial invention, these melodies are of a peculiar genus: and of the three ancient genera of the Greeks resemble most the *Enharmonick*; the more modern compositions are of that species termed *Diatonick*.

A considerable difficulty is found in setting to musick the *Raug*s and *Raugnees*, as our system does not supply notes or signs sufficiently expressive of the almost imperceptible elevations and depressions of the voice in these melodies; of which the time is broken and irregular, the modulations frequent and very wild. Whatever magick was in the touch when Orpheus swept his lyre, or Timotheus filled his softly breathing flute, the effects said to have been produced by two of the six *Raug*s, are even more extraordinary than any of those ascribed to the modes of the ancients. *Mia Tonsine*, a wonderful musician in the time of king *Akber* sung one of the *Night Raug*s at mid-day: the powers of his musick were such that it instantly became night, and the darkness extended in a circle round the palace as far as the sound of his voice could be heard.

There is a tradition, that whoever shall attempt to sing the *Raug Dheepuck* is to be destroyed by fire. The Emperor *Akber* ordered *Naik Gopaul*, a celebrated musician, to sing that *Raug*: he endeavoured to excuse